

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 4 , 2012

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Employee Input Needed on Medical Insurance Benefits

A very important challenge for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is to continue providing excellent affordable medical insurance benefits to MoDOT's active and retired employees, despite the rising costs for benefits and declining revenue to the department. In just five years, Commission contributions to MoDOT employees' medical and life insurance benefits have increased from \$66.2 million in 2007 to \$82.3 million in 2012.

To meet the challenge, the commission proposed changes to the funding strategy for medical insurance on behalf of employees and retirees beginning calendar year 2015. A special committee was appointed to review the proposed changes and provide feedback. The committee, through the EAC, is seeking employee input so the Commission understands the desires of employees.

October 21 is the deadline for submitting comments. **To submit your comments**, contact Brenda Wells, MoDOT active employee (CO Motor Carriers) brenda.wells@modot.mo.gov, or use the EAC concern form on the intranet - <http://wwwi/intranet/eac/>. All submissions will remain anonymous.

What is being proposed and how it could affect you:

- Active employee's medical insurance costs will be shared - 80 percent of the cost of the premium paid by the commission and 20 percent paid by the employee.
 - Currently, active employees pay 20 percent of the medical insurance costs – unless they are enrolled as subscriber only – those employees pay 12 percent of the costs.
- Existing employees who retire on or after January 1, 2015 - the Commission will pay a proportion of retirement medical insurance premiums based on the employee's years of service. The Commission will contribute two percent per year of service, not to exceed 50 percent of the total premium cost.
- Employees hired on or after January 1, 2015 - will receive a medical insurance contribution upon retirement of two percent per year of service, not to exceed 40 percent of the total premium cost.
 - Currently, all employees receive the same retirement medical insurance contribution regardless of their years of service. Upon retirement, the medical insurance contribution by the Commission is determined by the premium rate category of each employee. Two rate categories have the majority of enrolled participants for CY 2013: 1) retirees enrolled in retiree-only coverage pay 43 percent of the total premium cost; and 2) retirees also covering a spouse pay either 55 or 60 percent of the total premium cost, depending whether the spouse is enrolled in Medicare.

Special committee members: Commission Chair Rudy Farber, chair of committee; MoDOT Director Kevin Keith; MSHP Col. Ron Replogle; Brenda Wells, MoDOT active employee (CO Motor Carriers); Lt. Jim Remillard, MSHP active employee; Jervy Brown, MoDOT retiree; Major Hugh McKay, MSHP retiree; Todd Tyler, TEAM representative (SW District, Financial Services); and Sgt. Matt Broniec, MO State Troopers Association.

Barrel Bob, Communications Expert

by DeAnne Rickabaugh



Everyone's favorite 11-foot work zone guardian is proving himself quite capable of attracting attention away from the highways, too.

In his capacity as Missouri's spokesbarrel for work-zone safety, Bob was nominated and won the 2012 Work Zone Safety Awareness Award Competition in the Outreach Program/State category. The contest, sponsored by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, recognizes outstanding efforts to reduce roadway work zone construction crashes, injuries and fatalities.

Entries are evaluated on several criteria, including originality, effectiveness and the ability to be replicated by others.

"Everyone knows I'm just the pretty face of MoDOT's work-zone safety effort," said Bob. "This award belongs to the folks who work on construction and maintenance projects and to all the people who help me promote our safety message. That includes the people who haul my carcass from appearance to appearance. My thanks to all of you."

This is Bob's second turn in the national spotlight this year. Earlier, his Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/MOBarrelBob>, earned second place in the National Association of Government Communicators awards.

What To Do in an Accident Involving a MoDOT Vehicle

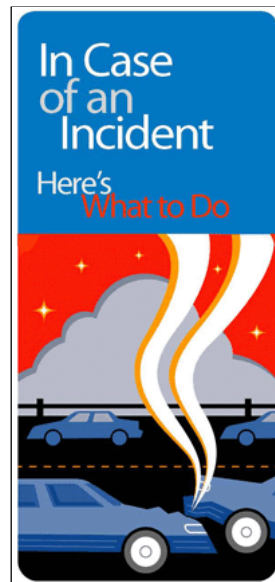
by Holly Dentner

The deer pops out from the side of the road so fast you don't even see it. A distracted driver doesn't hit the brakes and rear-ends you. Just like when you're in your personal car, crashes can happen when you're on the road in a MoDOT vehicle.

The next time you head out, check your glove compartment before you go. Make sure you've got a brochure titled "In Case of an Incident," along with a business card stating that MoDOT is self-insured and a copy of a claim report. These are the documents you'll need if you do have a crash or accident. The brochure may vary slightly from the districts to Central Office, but it should contain all the phone numbers you need and step-by-step instructions.

If you are involved in an incident, here's a quick outline of what to do:

1. Depending on the severity of the incident, the first thing you should do is aid the injured and call the police. Don't forget to put on your safety vest, safety glasses, hard hat, and other appropriate safety gear before you exit your vehicle.
2. Notify MoDOT and your risk management contact, no matter the time of day. You can always call MoDOT's customer service center at 1-888-275-6636, or check the brochure for your after hours contact. Always inform your supervisor.
3. Record the facts of the incident, information about the other vehicle, names and addresses of everyone involved, and whether or not there's any non-vehicular property damage. You should also get contact information for any witnesses that may have seen the incident occur.
4. Do not make any statements saying the incident was your fault, even if you think it was. Give only the information required by authorities. Do not sign any statement unless asked to by an authorized representative of MoDOT's Risk Management or a law enforcement officer.
5. If your vehicle is damaged and you can't drive it, someone at MoDOT will be able to help you.



It's easy to become anxious or stressed after a crash, so take a deep breath and remember to record as much information as you can. You'll need those details when you fill out your risk management claim report. If you don't find the brochure and other information in your glove compartment, call your safety officer to get the most current copies. Remember – MoDOT wants everyone home safely every day. Safety begins with you.

Missouri Department of Insurance Offers App for Smartphone Users

If you have an accident in your personal vehicle, The Missouri Department of Insurance has a new smartphone app that walks drivers through the necessary steps to take if they're in a car accident. The new [WreckCheck](#) mobile application, available at insurance.mo.gov, helps remove the guesswork. It's free and available for iPhone and Android users.

The WreckCheck app walks users through the step-by-step process of creating their own accident report. It also provides tips for staying calm, safe and smart on the road, and makes it easy to capture accident photos and collect the necessary information to file an insurance claim. Additionally, the app lets users email a completed accident report directly to themselves and their insurance agents.



Consumers with complaints or questions about insurance claims or policy provisions can call the Department of Insurance Consumer Hotline at 800-726-7390 or file a complaint at: insurance.mo.gov.

What's Happening



Battle of the Belts Competition Begins

Early autumn battles between high schools normally remind you of the gridiron. Battle of the Belt, a high school seat belt challenge, brings a different twist to high school rivalries. This statewide competition gives Missouri high schools an opportunity to win cash prizes for students' seat belt use.

The program consists of two surprise seat belt checks at each participating high school to measure seat belt usage before and after an educational campaign. The winning schools receive cash prizes to be used to further educate the students on the importance of seat belt use.

According to a 2012 survey, only 66 percent of Missouri teens buckle up. In the past three years 354 teens died in Missouri traffic crashes, 75 percent of whom were not buckled up.

This year's program runs from Oct. 1 to Nov. 9. More information can be found at savemolives.com

Mentoring Program Offers Career Help

Does your career need a helping hand? MoDOT's Mentoring Program may be the answer. Tap into the expertise and experiences of an experienced MoDOT employee to get your career on track. Contact the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division for details at 573-522-9482, or check out the latest career tips at: [Career Help](#)



Safety is My Story

Employees have a story to tell, a story about safety. Watch this video to see employees share their experiences on how training and protection equipment is personal to them.
[Safety is My Story](#)

October Service Anniversaries

35 Years

Howard C. Blake – SE

30 Years

Roger P. Roof – NW

25 Years

David K. Oliver – NW
 John C. Van Winkle – KC
 Thomas E. Allen – KC
 Bradley L. Brunk – KC
 Vernon H. Koch – KC
 Allen C. Thoenen – CD
 Cathy L. Bay – SW
 Ronald D. Branstine – SW
 Gerald E. Foster – CO
 Myrna R. Tucker – CO

20 Years

Bret E. Davidson – NW
 Richard Garcia – KC
 David P. Ordway – CD
 Jeffrey A. Verslues – CD
 Michael G. Smith – CD
 Mary M. Rackers – CD

20 Years Continued

Connie K. Wilson – SW
 Lynn W. Smith – SE
 Scott W. Breeding – CO

15 Years

David L. Lybarger – NW
 Martin D. Lincoln – NE
 Phyllis J. Murray – CD
 Eric S. Burlbaw – SL
 Glen H. Youngblood – SL
 Marsha A. Lovan – SE
 Christy L. Evers – CO
 Shelley Cooper – CO
 Lynn M. Ferguson – CO
 R. Todd Miller – CO

10 Years

Joe T. Gibson – NW
 Bobby D. O'Neal – NW
 Shawn P. Biegel – NE
 George W. Parker – KC
 Diana M. Gough – KC
 John Z. Noble – CD
 Jason M. Harmon – CD

10 Years Continued

Jennifer A. Riegel – SL
 Lorri A. Cole – SW
 Craig A. Duncan – SE
 Ronnie D. Sawyers – SE
 Kenneth W. Gartner – CO
 Deborah S. Rickard – CO
 Stacy M. Kaiser – CO
 Matthew V. Talken – CO

5 Years

Bryant K. Nelson – NW
 Erin C. Ralovo – KC
 Nathaniel M. Ragsdale – CD
 Ryan J. Kliethermes – CD
 Allen C. Lane – SL
 Shane L. Bird – SL
 Phillip D. Davis – SL
 Jonathan W. Burdick – SW
 Jodie A. Payne – SW
 Cody Key – SW
 William L. Cooper – SW
 Paul A. Hyde – SW
 Jerry G. Roland – SW
 Francisco C. Lule – SW
 Douglas C. Noakes – SW

In Memorium

Clifton Scott (Active Employee)
 KC District – September 21
 Donald Vroman
 former D2 - August 29
 Elmer Greunke
 former D5 – September 1
 Roger Pollard
 former D3 – September 5
 Bobby Hill
 former D7 – September 10

Leonard Scherrer, Jr.
 former D6 – September 12
 Carroll Bennett
 former D10 – September 14
 William Maddux
 former D4 – September 15
 Jack Toler
 former D5 – September 18

Albert Dillon
 former D2 – September 19
 Vernon Clatterbuck
 CO – September 20
 Charles Crawford
 Former D4 – September 20
 John Wilson
 CO – September 21

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The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
 P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
 573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Trees for Tomorrow

by Holly Dentner



At a news conference on Sept. 24, students at Pioneer Trail Elementary School planted a redbud tree they named "Buddy."

Since 2007, more than 2.5 million trees have been provided throughout the state through Trees for Tomorrow. The program also funds the Department of Conservation's longstanding annual program to provide a tree seedling to fourth graders statewide in celebration of Arbor Day. Free tree seedlings are also provided at other Arbor Day and Earth Day events around the state.

Thousands of trees will be planted in Missouri this year, thanks to a partnership between MoDOT and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The partnership is called Trees for Tomorrow, and through it MoDOT will purchase 250,000 trees that the Department of Conservation distributes to youth groups and schools for planting on public and private property.

This is the sixth year MoDOT has partnered with Conservation for the program, helping to fulfill our commitment to protect and conserve Missouri's natural resources. While it is sometimes necessary to remove trees as part of bridge and road construction, the department is committed to replacing the trees we have to remove. Since we are limited in the number of new trees we can plant on MoDOT right of way, this program puts the tree replacement into the hands of the experts.

The trees also come at a great value to taxpayers. According to the Department of Conservation, a typical forestry planting project can cost about \$35 per tree. At a cost of \$75,000, this partnership comes in at a much lower cost and has the added benefit of an educational component for the students.



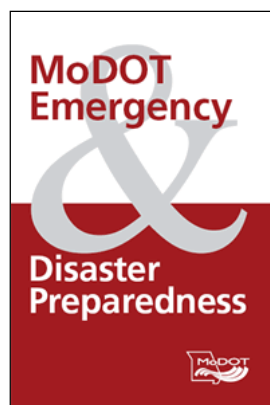
Deputy Director Tom Draper from the Department of Conservation and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith sign the partnership agreements during the Trees for Tomorrow news conference in Jefferson City.

Emergency Disaster Preparedness

We normally don't want to think about it, but disasters do happen. That's why an organization like MoDOT must be prepared should a disaster strike, and of course, we are. Knowing that the transportation system is critical to the response of emergencies of all sizes, MoDOT is prepared to engage the resources needed to get the roads open when emergencies occur. Having a Comprehensive Incident Response Plan is critical to being able to take action should the need arise.

To familiarize our transportation partners with MoDOT's level of preparedness, an Emergency Disaster Brochure was developed. The brochure gives an overview of what we have to offer as well as first line contacts statewide and at the district level. The brochure is targeted for agencies and organizations such as state elected officials, other state and federal agencies, local emergency management, first responder agencies and other emergency management partners that we work with.

If you would like to receive copies of the brochure, contact Traffic Liaison Engineer Rick Bennett at Rick.Bennett@modot.mo.gov, or 573-526-4842.



Flu Vaccination Clinics

Flu vaccination clinics for active Central Office employees will begin Monday, October 15, 2012. Please see the schedule below for clinic dates, times and locations.

Location: 910 MoDOT Drive, Bridge Maint. Shed
Date: Mon, Oct 15
Time: 6:30am-8:30am

Location: 830 MoDOT Drive, Orange Conf. Room
Date: Tues, Oct 16
Time: 8:30am-10:30am

Location: 1320 Creektrail Dr., I-55 Conf. Room
Date: Wed, Oct 17
Time: 8:30am-10:30am

Location: 105 W. Capitol Ave., Conf. Room 100
Date: Tues, Oct 23
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: 601 W. Main, Exact Location TBD
Date: Wed, Oct 24
Time: 9:00am-11:00am

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Northwest District

The End of an Era



KMBC-9 TV of Kansas City read about the construction delay on the Safe & Sound bridge in Chariton County because of nesting bridge swallows (they are protected by the Migratory Bird Act). On Sept. 20, they met and interviewed District Design Engineer Troy Slagle and MoDOT Environmental Specialist Bree McMurray about our

efforts to support the environment while, at the same time, meeting construction needs and deadlines. That isn't the only story we have to tell about this bridge, though. There's also an important story to be told about the entire program. It has been phenomenal. The Safe & Sound Bridge Program has been one of the largest, single most innovative bridge programs ever to be attempted in the entire United States. To commemorate this monumental completion, we have prepared a little documentation. To view the video, click on the image above or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t0FjOhIQRE&feature=youtu.be>

Video shot and edited by Travis Ellis

Car Seat Crunch

Just like milk, car seats have an expiration date. That's why the NW Region Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety sponsored a Car Seat Crunch on Thursday, Sept. 20, during National Child Passenger Safety Week Sept. 16 – 22 at a MoDOT maintenance facility in St. Joseph to educate caregivers about using the appropriate car seats for children to keep them safe during travel.

Over 100 expired child safety seats were brought to the Crunch to be disposed of.

"Many parents don't realize that using an expired car seat can compromise their child's safety," said Jackie Spainhower, the Northwest Region Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety coordinator. "Unless you have specific directions from the manufacturer, the car seat label or the manual that states otherwise, you should stop using a car seat after six years. Expired car seats should be destroyed so no one uses the seat thinking it's still safe."



Car seats have a rough life. The materials in them expand when temperatures inside vehicles soar well above 120 degrees in the sun and way down below freezing in the winter. They take a pounding from little bouncing bottoms – and excited, jumping feet – and are schlepped none too gently from vehicle to vehicle. Most car seats have expiration dates on them or a general rule is to only use a car seat for six years.

Photo by Melissa Black

Transportation Fair



On September 21st, 250 students from five area high schools attended the NW MO Arrive Alive Transportation Fair hosted by NWMORCOG and NWMSU University Police. Thanks to funding from the Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety, eight different stations and presenters covered topics like impaired driving, distracted driving, seatbelt usage, car maintenance and other important transportation safety issues.

Photos by **Melissa Black**

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Northeast District

Education CAN Be Fun!

by Jennifer Butner, Human Resources

The Northeast District held its Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference at the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center on the Mark Twain Lake on September 26. It was an interesting and enjoyable event for the 75 employees in attendance despite the rainy day.

"We were very honored to have two outstanding speakers to lead the activities," said HR Manager Ellen Gehringer. Jerome Anderson, CEO of Anderson Organization & Management Consulting Firm, shared ideas and examples of how to make the work environment a more inclusive place for employees. Lela Panagides, Founder and CEO of Leap into Leadership, spoke on the critical competencies everyone needs to be successful in the workplace.

Because this is an annual event, all district employees will eventually have an opportunity to attend and participate in this informative and entertaining activity in the future.



Jerome Anderson shared methods to use to increase inclusion in any setting so everyone's ideas are considered regardless of the differences in the group.

Auction Nets Two Miles of Resurfacing



More than 500 people gathered to bid on surplus items during the NE District auction held last Saturday in Hannibal.

It was the perfect day to dispose of hundreds of surplus items gathered from implementation of MoDOT's Bolder Five-Year Direction over the past year. Approximately 500 people came out for the event held last Saturday, and a few hundred came the day before for the preview.

According to Steven Pike, support services manager for the NE District, nearly \$100,000 was collected, which is just about enough to resurface two miles of a minor route. These funds will be used for road work in the NE District.

The largest ticket item sold was a pavement breaker that went for \$3,300. "Overall, I think items brought a good price," Steven said.

Sitting in the Safe Seat

The NE Coalition for Roadway Safety teamed up with MoDOT and the Pike County Health Department to offer a car seat inspection and donation station at the McDonald's restaurant in Bowling Green. Mike Foppe, maintenance supervisor for the Troy maintenance facility and a certified child passenger safety technician, along with Sharisse Nemes of maintenance and traffic, assisted the Health Department by registering about 21 people for the event and installing about 15 car seats.

Mike was very pleased with the outcome. "It is a good day when we can provide families a means to help their children be safely secured in car seats," he said.

The NE Coalition for Roadway Safety has car seats available for donation and regularly works with agencies like health departments, hospitals and parents as teachers to provide the appropriate sized seat for disadvantaged families.



Kim Gamm, a certified passenger safety technician with the Pike County Health Department, shows a father how to properly strap in his twins during the car seat event held in Bowling Green.

For more info

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Fallen Worker - Highway Hero Takes Wings

In Memory of Clifton J. Scott

by Gina Myles

Early Friday morning September 21, one of MoDOT's own gave his life doing what he loved most, helping others. Clifton Scott, Emergency Response Operator was working an accident scene on westbound Interstate 70 just before the I-470 interchange when a car driven by a suspected drunk struck and killed him.

Scott's career with MoDOT began in June 1997 as a maintenance crew worker. He was promoted to intermediate, then to senior crew worker, before joining Motorist Assist in August 2002. On September 17, just four days before his death, Scott celebrated 15 years of service and received his 15- year safety award for no lost-time accidents.

He was no stranger to the risks of highway work. In November 2001, Scott received the Meritorious Safety Award for rescuing a co-worker. Scott and co-worker Craig Burgett were patching potholes in the center lane of I-470 in Lee's Summit, protected by a MoDOT truck driven by Richard Strader. As Strader was slowly moving his truck down the highway, he saw a tractor trailer bearing down on the truck, Scott and Burgett. The tractor trailer collided with the MoDOT truck, which careened off the highway, rolling down a slope. Scott and Burgett ran to Strader's aid, forced the driver's door open and pulled an unconscious Strader to safety just before the truck caught fire.

Craig Burgett, now a motorist assist operator, remembers Scott's courage, sacrifice and bravery. Burgett recalls his friend as a good father, a dedicated state employee both as a Motorist Assist operator and a maintenance worker at Holmes Park where they met 15 years ago. Burgett said Scott would do anything to help anyone. He truly cared and was a true friend who touched so many people in so many ways.

"Cliff is always going to be a hero, giving the greatest sacrifice any man can give by losing his life in the line of duty while saving the lives of those who were involved in the first wreck that night," Burgett said. "As we move forward from this senseless loss, we must stand together and know that what makes Cliff a true hero is not how he died, but how he lived."

Friends and co-workers recall Scott as fun loving, always smiling, joking and looking to induce laughter. Motorist Assist Shift Supervisor Percy Houston noted that Scott's truck had a video camera that recorded in front of the truck and inside the cab. Scott didn't care to be recorded, and would push the button, thinking he turned off the camera, but instead, he had reset it. When Houston reviewed the video, it had recorded Scott talking to himself and singing inside his truck.

"When Shift Supervisor Greg Morgan and I showed Cliff the footage, he fell out laughing at it, got a big kick out of it," Houston said.

"Cliff was a great friend," Motorist Assist Operator Joe Jones said. "He would call me at 2 am and tell me he needed me to come in because of a serious accident. I would get upset but would tell him I'll come in. Then after I'd got dressed and ready to come in, he would call back and say he was just joking. Cliff was great person to work with and he was a great leader. I knew Cliff for about 15 years. I will certainly miss him."

Customer Relations Specialist Gina Myles, Scott's friend and high school classmate, spent time with him on September 17 after the service award ceremony.

"Working in the district office, my seating placement recently changed, and Cliff laughingly scolded me about not being able to find me when he came to the district building. He insisted on walking me to my new desk so he would know where I sat. When we got to my desk, he pulled up a chair and sat for a long time. We reminisced about high school, laughed and he told jokes about the Scout TMC operators he worked the overnight shift with. I laughed so hard my sides hurt and I finally told him I had to get back to work. He hugged me before he left and told me he now knew where to find me and he'd see me next time. Cliff was a genuine caring person who always brought a smile to my face when I saw him. He will be sorely missed and always remembered as a man of kindness and integrity."



Clifton Scott smiles for a group photo after receiving his 15 year service award on September 17. Photo by Steve Porter



Scott's loss, less than a month after the Move Over Law was extended to include MoDOT vehicles, is difficult for MoDOT employees to absorb. It reminds us all to educate motorists on the seriousness of drunk and distracted driving. More than a decade earlier, Scott made the point during a television interview: "When you see the signs saying lane closed, move over and slow down, we have kids, we have families, we all want to go home at the end of the day."

Always remembered, NEVER forgotten. We are saddened by the loss of Clifton Scott, Motorist Assist Operator and 15 year veteran of the Missouri Department of Transportation who gave his life, killed in the line of duty while ensuring the safety of others.

"What makes Cliff a true hero is not how he died but how he lived!"
~ Craig Burgett

"Cliff was a genuine caring person who always brought a smile to my face when I saw him. He will be sorely missed and always remembered as a man of kindness and integrity."
~ Gina Myles

"Cliff was a great co-worker and friend who will be remembered fondly by all."
~ Chris Redline



Proud to be a part of the Motorist Assist Team, Clifton Scott was taken too soon when tragically killed by a drunk driver early in the morning on September 21 while working traffic control to help secure the scene of a previous accident, helping to ensure the safety of other emergency responders.

Funeral Services Reflect Clifton J. Scott's Heroic Life

by Gina Myles

The Funeral of Clifton J. Scott was Saturday, September 29, 2012, at St. Stephen Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo. The service reflected on Scott's life, as family, friends, coworkers and colleagues gathered to watch the highway hero take his wings.

Police barricades blocked Truman Road from The Paseo to Troost Avenue. Fire trucks flanked on each side of the street, with ladders extended high in the sky with a large American flag flying between them. Beneath the gently waving flag passed a procession of Motorist Assist trucks, MoDOT trucks, police vehicles from agencies throughout the metro area, tow trucks and more fire trucks.

The church was filled with mourners who expressed their love and admiration. Gathered for the ceremony included members of the Motorist Assist team, followed by law enforcement officers, firefighters, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller, MoDOT Director Kevin Keith, MoDOT Chief Engineer Dave Nichols, MoDOT Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis, MoDOT State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright, Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec, Kansas City Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline, Kansas City Assistant District Engineer Brian Kidwell, Kansas City Assistant to the District Engineer Randy Hartman and many others who consoled family members.



Fire trucks hoisted the American flag to honor the life of Clifton Scott during funeral services on September 29. Hundreds of emergency responders joined in the procession that took Scott to his final resting place.

Rusty James, Scout Incident Management Coordinator, shared stories about Scott, the leader, the hard worker, the outspoken person and good friend. Others came forward to share fond memories, funny stories, pay their respects and offer condolences to the family. Clifton was loved, respected and held in high esteem by many people for his caring ways, his integrity and his willingness to help.

Scott's brothers and sisters in emergency response joined in the 10-mile procession on a closed Route 71, southbound from Truman Road to I-435, then westbound from the 3-Trails Crossing to Holmes Road. Onlookers stood on overpasses and on-ramps, some saluting, or holding the American flag, others waving, recording or just watching, as Scott's funeral procession passed along the center lane of 71 Highway in a magnificent moment to his final place of rest at Mount Moriah Cemetery - close to familiar buzz of traffic on nearby I-435.

Promising Partnerships – Promote Safety

Scout's Traffic Incident Program Continues to Bring Emergency Responders Together

by Gina Myles

Still reeling from the deaths of two members killed in the line of duty, the Kansas City Metro Traffic Incident Management Program held its quarterly meeting October 2 at the Lee's Summit Police Department.

Rusty James, Incident Management Coordinator for Scout/MoDOT, noted the recent loss of Blake Gresham of GT Tow, an 18-year-old tow operator struck and killed on Interstate 35 near the Bond Bridge on August 27 while assisting a stranded motorist. James then pointed out that MoDOT Motorist Assist Operator Clifton Scott was killed less than a month later by a suspected drunk driver while Scott was providing traffic control at a crash scene. James thanked the incident management partners for all of the love and support demonstrated during the difficult loss of Scott. He said the amazing farewell Scott received reflected the bond shared between the partners in the program.

James encouraged law enforcement and fire agencies to extend the same courtesy to tow operators as they do each other by backing them up on the scene to prevent senseless deaths like that of Gresham. James emphasized that, as emergency responders, tow operators who arrive at an incident should call Motorist Assist or police to help protect them from traffic.

Gresham's death has drawn attention to Missouri's "Move Over" law, which requires motorists to give wide berth to emergency vehicles stopped on the roadside. It raises a question whether the law should be more specific. The law includes all emergency vehicles, tow trucks included, although to many its meaning is unclear. To clarify for law enforcement, fire personnel and the driving public, Scout is changing the message on its signs to read "Move Over/Slow Down For Stopped Emerg/MoDOT/Tow Vehicles."

Bruce Pollock of Lazer Tow praised James and the incident management program. "Before Rusty started this program, there was no on-scene organization on incidents," Pollock said. "Now everyone is on the same page, all the training and communication makes the Kansas City area incident management program stand out among others in the country."

"The tow community feels like we've lost another brother so soon after losing Blake," Pollock said. "It is hard to take, we (Lazer Tow) had four trucks there for the services. We just wanted to support MoDOT any way we could."



Members of Motorist Assist, metro law enforcement, fire departments, tow and recovery agencies, Scout, Federal Highways and more attend the October 2 Traffic Incident Management meeting hosted by the Lee's Summit Police Department.

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Comments & Suggestions

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Smoother Sailing on Route 63

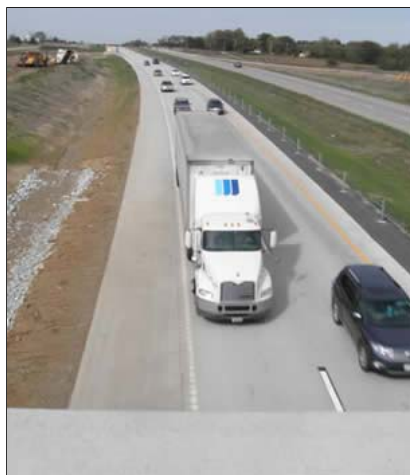
Motorists traveling south on U.S. Route 63 between Jefferson City and Columbia are now using two brand new lanes to get there. The two new southbound lanes of U.S. 63 from just north of Route 163 to just south of Route H opened to traffic on Sept. 26. But first it took some tricky teamwork to make the switch happen. For about a day southbound travel on Route 63 was reduced to one lane to allow crews to prepare the roadway for the switch to the new lanes. That caused some backups during peak travel times, but, all in all, things went pretty smoothly.

“A lot of time and effort went into planning for the traffic switch,” said Kirsten Munck, assistant to the resident engineer in Columbia. “It took a great deal of coordination among the contractor, the Highway Patrol and various MoDOT departments. All of our partners deserve to be acknowledged, and we thank them for helping make this transition a success.”

With the opening of the new southbound lanes, two new j-turns – one north of Turkey Creek and the other north of Route 163 – also opened to traffic, and the existing median crossovers at Route 163 and Route AB (Deer Park) were permanently closed.



Stripers finish their work just prior to motorists being directed to the new southbound lanes on Route 63. MoDOT and contractor staff teamed up with the Missouri State Highway Patrol to ensure a smooth transition.



Traffic moves on the new southbound Route 63 lanes, which opened to traffic on Sept. 27.

The former southbound lanes will be used to create an outer roadway system that will improve safety and provide better access for residents and businesses located along Route 63.

The new southbound lanes and j-turns are the second portion of the \$9.8 million Route 63 and H interchange project to open to traffic. The first leg – two new j-turns located between the Discovery Parkway interchange and Bonne Femme Creek – opened Aug. 29. Those j-turns replaced two cross-over intersections at Old Millers Road and South Rolling Hills Road.

The third and final component of the project involves completing the interchange at Route 63 and Route H near the Columbia Regional Airport. That interchange, scheduled to be opened in early November, will allow for safer access to and from the Columbia Regional Airport and will provide additional economic development opportunities for the area.

Now, That's Dedication!

Central Office General Services Manager Jeannie Wilson, Central District General Services Manager Coleen Welter and Facility Operations Supervisor Phil Hamilton were traveling back from Kansas City to Jefferson City when they came upon tire scraps in the roadway.

"Both Coleen and Phil were reaching for their PPE as Phil pulled our vehicle off the road," Jeannie said. "They had the debris cleared and were getting back into the vehicle before I knew what was going on, but I managed to snap a couple of pictures anyway!"

Now, that's dedication!



Barrel Bob Heads South



Our good friend Barrel Bob has taken up temporary residence in the Meramec Region, where he's reminding motorists to Drive Smart. This is Bob's first visit to the southern part of the Central District. You can look him up at the 173.0 mile marker on I-44 where he's waving to the eastbound traffic.

A Note of Thanks

Area Engineer Mike Schupp recently gave a presentation to a news writing class at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Mike provided an overview of road and bridge projects in Boone County and then answered questions on a variety of transportation-related topics to give the students an opportunity to strengthen their interview skills.

Jeanne Abbott, associate professor at the School of Journalism and Managing Editor of the Columbia Missourian followed up with this note of thanks: "Mike Schupp's visit gave a smart class of journalism students a great, great connection to the real world. The presentation was perfect — nicely paced for them, with important information explained so well. I can't thank you enough for helping to arrange the visit and then producing such a valuable one. Anytime you need something from us (Missourian/School of Journalism), please let me know. You guys are great."



Area Engineer Mike Schupp

Sometimes it's the little things we do that go a long way in providing outstanding customer service to our customers.

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St. Louis
District

St. Louis Employee Honored for 2012 Missouri Older Worker Award

by Jack Wang

"When I am asked why I don't retire, I look around the room at my fellow colleagues who are the reason. MoDOT is my extended family." -Shirley Norris

At an age when most people are retired, MoDOT St. Louis' Project Manager Shirley Norris is still working full time doing what she loves as a professional engineer.

"At 82 years old, Shirley continues to work so hard, she makes everyone else work harder," said Tom Blair, St. Louis assistant district engineer.

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith recalls Norris from his days working in the St. Louis district.

"Shirley was one of the very first project managers MoDOT ever hired and she still remains one of our top project managers to this day," said Keith. "Quite frankly, she is one of the best project managers in the state. We are lucky to have her on the MoDOT team."

With accolades like that, it was no wonder that fellow employees and supervisors thought of Norris and nominated her for the 2012 Missouri Older Worker Award.

"There were several of us thinking about doing this for Shirley," said Karen Yeomans, St. Louis district design engineer. "We all knew it needed to be done."

Shortly after Norris' colleagues submitted her nomination, they were notified that she won the St. Louis Regional Older Worker Award. In turn, Yeomans told Norris she had won, but kept the district award presentation a surprise to her. Norris thought she was attending a project managers' meeting when the surprise presentation was sprung on her.

"When I first walked in room, I was wondering what this all was, and then I saw the congratulations banner and said to myself, 'I'll go with it,' said Norris.

"I could not imagine, obviously there was a big effort in the nomination and surprising me with the award presentation from the committee and my MoDOT family" added Norris. "It's awesome and really cool to be recognized by my MoDOT family."

During the award presentation, Norris mentioned how proud she was to receive this prestigious award.

"When I am asked why I don't retire, I look around the room at my fellow colleagues who are the reason," said Norris. "MoDOT is my extended family."

Norris says she's not ready to retire yet. She always remembers a plaque in her office that says "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?"



Fall Employee Meetings: Build a Winning Team for the Future

by Kara Price

"Building a winning team for the future" is the St. Louis district's focus this fall. Upcoming annual employee meetings held in October will follow this theme. All employees that are full-time and benefit eligible seasonal employees are required to attend one of the seven meetings listed below. Uniform fittings will take place at 7:30 a.m., and the sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Some of the topics that will be discussed include, safety, open enrollment of benefits, retirement update and winter operations briefing. Flu shots and a health screening will be available at these meetings. Contact your supervisor for any questions regarding this year's fall employee meetings.



October 9 at Bellefontaine maintenance facility
North County

October 10 at Broadway maintenance facility
St. Louis City, Hampton Bridge, Mississippi River Bridge

October 11 at the Transportation Management Center
District Office, Transportation Management Center

October 15 at Barrett Station
General Services, Traffic Operations

October 16 at Barrett Station
Franklin and Jefferson Counties, St. Clair Bridge

October 22 at Barrett Station
SouthWest Counties

October 23 at Wentzville maintenance facility
St. Charles County

Four Teams Short-Listed for Route 364 Page Phase 3 Design-Build Project

by Linda Wilson Horn

MoDOT's St. Louis Office has received Statements of Qualification (SOQ) from four teams interested in competing for the contract to design and construct the new Route 364 Page Phase 3 in St. Charles County. These SOQs have been evaluated and all four teams have been short-listed to proceed. The Request for Proposals was issued October 1. The teams will use this information to prepare their plans for how they will design and construct the project. Their proposals are due to MoDOT at the first of the year. The contractor should be selected in February 2013 and construction could start as early as spring 2013. The short-listed teams are as follows:

Team Name	Major Participants	Additional Team Members
Gershenson Bloomsdale Burns & McDonnell	Gershenson Construction Bloomsdale Excavating Burns and McDonnell	
Page Constructors	Fred Weber, Inc. Millstone Bangert, Inc. Kolb Grading Parsons Transportation	Horner & Shifrin, Inc. CBB EFK Moen, LLC. TSi Engineering, Inc. Project Controls Group, Inc.
Lane	Lane Construction Pace Construction Kuesel Excavating URS Corporation	BLA Civil Design, Inc. Kowelman Engineering, Inc. TSi Engineering, Inc. Vector Communications
Walsh	Walsh Construction HDR Inc.	

For more project information, visit the web site at www.modot.org/route364.

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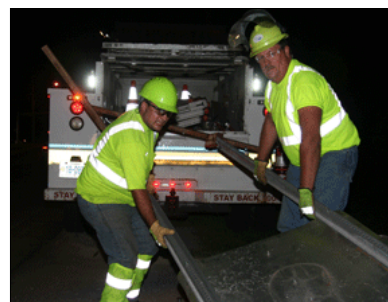
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SOUTHWEST DISTRICT AT WORK

Working to close I-44 and the West Bypass in Springfield for bridge demolition the night of Friday, Sept. 21, are Springfield Senior Construction Inspector Page Morgan (photo above left) and Seasonal Incident Response Worker Tim Wasson, left, and Intermediate Incident Response Worker Randy Thompson (photo above right).

Inspecting the underside of a bridge on Kansas Expressway (Route 13) north of Sunshine Street in Springfield is District Bridge Engineer Dave O'Connor (photo on left).

Work Progresses on I-44 / Range Line Road Interchange Reconstruction in Joplin

by Angela Eden

A major step was being taken this week on the I-44/Range Line Road reconstruction by shifting I-44 traffic to the outside shoulders. This will allow contractor crews to begin building the new bridge in the interstate median.

Traffic will remain in this pattern into early in 2013 when interstate traffic will be shifted to the new median bridge.

The project involves replacing the two existing I-44 bridges with one new bridge in three sections and converting Range Line Road to the Diverging Diamond Interchange design.

Cloverleaf ramps have been replaced by straight, directional, temporary ramps until the permanent ramps are built toward the end of the project.

Also, the old traffic signals on Range Line Road at the I-44 ramps have been removed in favor of temporary signals which then will be replaced by new traffic signals just before the conversion to the DDI next summer.

During construction, the I-44 speed limit is reduced to 60 mph and the speed limit on Range Line Road is reduced to 35 mph.

Few major traffic disruptions have occurred into early this week, and that has impressed one local driver.

"I know there might be days where unavoidable problems arise, but so far they have done nothing short of a miraculous job making sure traffic flows smoothly at 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. weekdays (when I drive through there)," Amy Thomlison said in a message received through the Southwest District Facebook page.

The \$8-million construction project is set for completion at the end of 2013.

HR and Safety Training Featured in Employee Fairs

by Bob Edwards

The Southwest District's Employee Fairs this fall provide two significant training sessions, including a Human Resources component required for everyone.

The first meeting was held last week in Clinton and the second was scheduled for today (Thursday, Oct. 4) in Joplin.

Employee fairs coming up are: Wednesday, Oct. 10, Nevada; Monday, Oct. 15, Monett; Wednesday, Oct. 17, Ozark; Tuesday, Oct. 23, Springfield; and Wednesday, Oct. 24, Springfield.

The morning session begins with remarks at 8 o'clock from District Engineer Becky Baltz. Presentations will be given on pavement joint repairs and chip-seals. The latest medical insurance information will be presented by Senior Financial Services Specialist Todd Tyler. The morning will wrap up with a Q-and-A with Becky.

The afternoon session covers the HR and Risk Management training.

HR Manager Steve Hermann is presenting Equal Employment Opportunity, workplace aggression and sexual harassment information.

The material "is about how we treat one another as co-workers," Hermann said. "As the world becomes more stressful and we spend more time at work than with our families, it is important to have the proper tools to deal with situations that arise within the workplace."

Employees who have safety-sensitive jobs will go through training that covers radio operations, updates in the federal emergency response guidebook, hydraulic safety, basic safety operations and hazards communication.

"There are hazards in every task we do," District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry said. "So we're trying to raise employee awareness of these hazards to ensure our employees get home safely every night."

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Southeast District

MoDOT to Hold Two-Day Realty Sales Event Live, On-Site Auctions Scheduled to Sell Former Maintenance Lots

The Missouri Department of Transportation's Southeast District will hold a two-day sales event in an attempt to sell its former maintenance lots in Brazeau, Delta, Marquand, Moody, Manes and Success. The properties are part of the Department's Realty to Roads program.

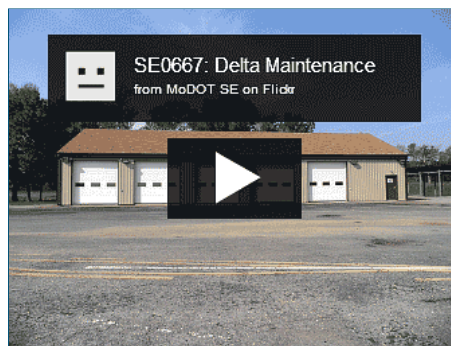
"These facilities are no longer needed to build, improve or maintain Missouri's highway system," said Right of Way Manager Sherry Glastetter. "Selling these properties through Realty to Roads benefits taxpayers because the funds generated are dedicated to roadway improvements."

The properties will be sold through live, on-site auctions. Auctions for the Brazeau, Delta and Marquand facilities will be held on Monday, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively. Auctions for the Moody, Manes and Success facilities will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively.

The parcels range in size from 3.01 to 7.91 acres and include various shop buildings. Interested parties may view photos, boundaries surveys or additional property details at www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm.

Bidding will commence at the prescribed time, and no bids will be accepted prior to the live auctions. Bids must be submitted during the live auctions. Phone bids will not be accepted. All sales are subject to final approval by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The Commission reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids. The properties will be sold in "as is" condition.

For additional information, please contact Right of Way Specialist Michael Smith at (573) 472-5286, Senior Right of Way Specialist Eric Kaut at (417) 469-6296 or via email at SERealtytoRoads@modot.mo.gov.



To view videos, photos and additional information about properties included in the two-day sales event, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm.

Maintenance Crew Goes Above & Beyond Thanks to Paul Mathis, Tom Bishop, & Kerry Elam

The following information was emailed to MoDOT by Ms. Rose Gant to thank the SE District's maintenance employees for going above and beyond to assist the Gants in late September.



Maintenance team members (l to r) Paul Mathis, Tom Bishop and Kerry Elam assisted the Gants.

It was a "Thank you, Lord" moment on September 24, 2012 when MoDOT employees Paul Mathis, Tom Bishop, and Kerry Elam came to a small clear area to secure their highway mowing equipment for the day. The men were working in sight of Glen and Rose Gant who live on the nearby property off highway 72 about seven miles from Bunker, MO.

Glen Gant had been using his walker to return from his garage to his house when he collapsed in the uneven yard. His muscles were not strong enough for him to get up. Rose Gant was not strong enough to help him get upright. She hurried over to the MoDOT workers and asked if it was permissible for them to help an old disabled man who had fallen. Yes!

Paul, Tom, and Kerry helped Glen up and aligned him in his walker. They tried helping him walk to the house but Glen's legs were too weak to hold him up. The crew eventually picked up Glen, carried him to the house, and settled him in his easy chair.

To MoDOT employees Paul Mathis, Tom Bishop, and Kerry Elam: Thank you, thank you, thank you! You were in the right place at the right time for us.

Thanks also for the mowing job on highway 72 near Bunker, MO. You are making the area attractive for coming Bunker events like the Sept. 29 open house of the Historic Union Church-Timber Museum, also of the Bunker Octoberfest on Oct. 20, and hopefully, the Bunker Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 17.

Thank you, MoDOT.
Glen and Rose Gant

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